

April 28, 2013

Association for Applied Sport Psychology
8365 Keystone Crossing, Suite 107
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Dear Ms. Johnson,

In accordance with the requirements of receiving the 2013 Student Conference Grant from the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP), it is our pleasure to report the success of the 2013 Southwest Regional Student Conference hosted by the University of Denver.

During the weekend of April 5th and 6th, the University of Denver hosted 111 guests representing 22 institutions and 13 states, nearly doubling last year's attendance. During the weekend, 32 students presented original and applied research from the field of sport and performance psychology, totaling 22 student presentations and 6 professional presentations.

At the conference, students interacted with our two keynote speakers, Dr. Keith Henschen, P.E.D. (Retired - University of Utah) and Dr. Ken Ravizza, Ph.D. (California State University - Fullerton). Both keynote speakers discussed their career paths, personal consulting philosophies, consultation techniques, how the field of sport and performance psychology has evolved, and what directions they would like the field take in the coming years. Immediately following the addresses, each keynote participated in a role play allowing conference attendees to "observe them in action." In our post conference survey, Dr. Ravizza's keynote address was cited as the "favorite part of the conference" for 40% of survey respondents, while Dr. Henschen's keynote was a favorite for 30% of respondents. Both addresses were described as "informative, yet entertaining," with "very good" quality.

Beyond the keynote addresses, conference attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of two professional panels. The first panel consisted of Dr. Ashwin Patel, Dr. Christopher Bader, Dr. Jamie Shapiro, Dr. Jessica Dale, Dr. Stephen Walker, and Dr. Matt Johnson. This panel specifically addressed conferring with colleagues, sport psychology at the university level, the importance of developing self-awareness as a practitioner, and ethical issues. The second professional panel, which mainly discussed gaining entry, was comprised of Dr. Ken Ravizza, Dr. Keith Henschen, Dr. Traci Statler, Dr. Steve Portenga, Dr. Mark Aoyagi, and Dr. Artur Poczwardowski. The panels were listed as the "favorite part of the conference" for 20% of the survey respondents.

Finally, the conference was closed with a student and professional Think Tank that highlighted lessons learned from the weekend, and allowed students to express their opinions and thoughts regarding some of the topics that had been discussed over the course of the conference. We also shared experiences from attending the AASP Annual Meeting and directed conference attendees to the AASP website for more information regarding the next national conference in New Orleans, LA, this October.

To summarize the conference, some of the highlights, as provided by anecdotal discussions and post-conference evaluations, included the following:

- Keynote addresses and role plays from Dr. Keith Henschen and Dr. Ken Ravizza
- Two professional panels with professionals representing six institutions
- Small group Think Tank as closing activity for students
- 22 sport and exercise/performance programs represented
- Informal student interactions throughout the event allowing for multiple networking opportunities
- A successful social event on Friday evening
- 78% of post-conference survey respondents reporting that the quality of student presentations was “Good” or “Very Good”
- 86% of post-conference survey respondents reporting that the opportunity to “meet and connect with other students” as “Good” or “Very Good”
- 66% of respondents reporting that the “organization of the conference” was “Very Good”
- 88% of respondents reporting that “Yes” they would like to attend the Southwest Region Student Conference next year

The University of Denver would like to express its gratitude for your contributions to the 2013 Southwest Regional Student Conference. It would have all been for naught without the generosity of the AASP conference grant. We are honored to continue the excellent tradition of student conferences at the University of Denver and look forward to representing AASP again at future conferences.

Sincerely,

Ashley Marsh
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